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We claim:

1. A method for an EWI (email waiting indication) query of an  
5 mail server (MS) located in a packet-switched network (IPNET)  
via a PSTN terminal device (TEL), comprising:
  - a) inputting of service access information (SAC(E.164)) at  
the PSTN terminal device (TEL),
  - b) transmitting a trigger to an internode module (INM), which  
10 either forms part of a transit exchange or is located on a  
standalone platform in the PSTN,
  - c) generating an EWI request (rq(aid, E.164, iauth, adEWIS))  
at the internode module (INM),
  - d) adapting the EWI request (rq(aid, E.164, iauth, adEWIS))  
15 for transmission over the packet-switched network (IPNET) in  
a RAS (remote access server) server (IWU),
  - e) transmitting the EWI request (rq(aid, E.164, iauth,  
adEWIS)) to an application server (EWIS), and
  - f) submitting a query (qu(uid, PW, adMS, adEWIS)) to the mail  
20 server (MS) via the application server (EWIS).
2. The method according to claim 1, characterised in that the  
service access information (SAC(E.164)) is transmitted to the  
internode module (INM) via a central office (CO), a private  
25 branch exchange (PBX), or a transit exchange (TX).
3. The method according to one of the claims 1 to 2,  
characterised in that the DSS1 protocol or frequency shift  
keying (FSK) is employed for transmission of the service  
30 access information (SAC(E.164)) to the internode module  
(INM).
4. The method according to one of the claims 1 to 3,  
characterised in that the DSS1 protocol is employed for  
35 transmission of the EWI request (rq(aid, E.164, iauth,  
adEWIS)) to the RAS server.

5. The method according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the POP3 protocol, the IMAP protocol or the SMTP protocol is employed for the query of the mail server (MS).
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6. The method according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that information (inf) retrieved through the IMW query is sent to a service subscriber via voice message.
- 10 7. The method according to one of the claims 1 to 7, characterised in that information (inf) retrieved through the IMW query is sent to a service subscriber via SMS message.
8. Internode module (INM) comprising means adapted for
- 15 carrying out a method according to one of the claims 1 to 7, where
- a) the internode module (INM) either forms part of a transit exchange or an open service platform or is located in a standalone platform, and
- 20 b) the internode module (INM) comprises means for generating an EWI request (rq(aid, E.164, iauth, adEWIS)).